

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2005

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 56**

**Introduced by Senator Alarcon**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Montanez)

June 29, 2005

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 56, as amended, Alarcon. Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim October 15 as Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and would urge all community-based organizations, religious communities, civic groups, health care providers, elected officials, and government agencies to utilize this day to raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Latino community.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Local social marketing efforts with appropriate  
2 AIDS education to reach Latinos need to be expanded; and  
3 WHEREAS, Latinos make up 14 percent of the population of  
4 the United States and United States territories, but account for 20  
5 percent of AIDS cases nationally; and  
6 WHEREAS, AIDS and HIV pose a threat to national public  
7 health and there are more than 130,000 people presently living  
8 with AIDS in California; and  
9 WHEREAS, The proportion of newly diagnosed Latino AIDS  
10 cases in California has been increasing over the last decade and  
11 in 2002 they represented ~~4,364~~ 22,594 cumulative AIDS cases;  
12 and

1 WHEREAS, Among anonymous testers, Latino men who have  
2 sex with men have the highest rate of new HIV infections of all  
3 racial or ethnic groups and make up the second highest number  
4 of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, Among male-to-female transgendered persons,  
6 ~~Latinas make up the third highest percentage of HIV and AIDS~~  
7 ~~cases diagnosed in 2002; and Latinas are a high-risk group for~~  
8 ~~HIV/AIDS; and~~

9 WHEREAS, National rates of Latinas exposed to AIDS has  
10 climbed from 15 percent to 23 percent over the last 12 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Among people 13 to 24 years of age, Latino  
12 youth in California make up the highest percentage of AIDS  
13 cases diagnosed since the beginning of the AIDS and HIV  
14 epidemic; and

15 WHEREAS, Latinos see AIDS as one of the most important  
16 health issues facing the Nation. Yet many Latinos have  
17 misconceptions about HIV transmission that must be addressed  
18 through targeted prevention efforts using culturally and  
19 linguistically appropriate health information; and

20 WHEREAS, Many Latinos lack health insurance and are not  
21 connected to traditional social service and health care networks,  
22 thereby making them more vulnerable to this epidemic; and

23 WHEREAS, Latino AIDS Awareness Day brings an  
24 opportunity to increase community awareness and dialogue, to  
25 commemorate those lost, and to bring leaders together to  
26 advocate for greater services and community involvement to  
27 fight this epidemic; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
29 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
30 hereby proclaims October 15 *as* Latino AIDS Awareness Day in  
31 California, and urges all community-based organizations,  
32 religious communities, civic groups, health care providers,  
33 elected officials, and government agencies to utilize this day to  
34 raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Latino  
35 community; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
37 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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